

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L MUNICH 2307

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: BU, PGOV, PINR, PINT
SUBJECT: NEW RABOTNICHESKO DELO EDITOR YOTOV

REF: SOFIA 1670

1. RFE HAS PROVIDED CONGEN FOLLOWING INFORMATION ON YORDAN
YOTOV, NEW EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF BULGARIAN PARTY DAILY RABOTNICHESKO
DELO.

BEGIN TEXT: IN CONTRAST TO HIS PREDECESSOR, PETAR DYULGEROV,
WHO HELD THIS POST FOR ONLY ABOUT A YEAR AND WHOSE BACKGROUND
WAS EXCLUSIVELY ONE OF A PARTY FUNCTIONARY, YOTOV (57) IS
A PARTY HISTORIAN WHO UNTIL 1969 WORKED WITH THE INSTITUTE ON
HISTORY OF THE BCP AND SINCE THAT YEAR HAS BEEN ITS DEPUTY
DIRECTOR. IN 1970 OR 1971 HE RECEIVED THE SCIENTIFIC DEGREE OF
CANDIDATE OF HISTORIC SCIENCE AND IN 1973 WAS PROMOTED TO THE
DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF HISTORIC SCIENCE ON THE BASIS OF A DISSERTATION
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ON "CENTRISM IN THE BULGARIAN SOCIALIST MOVEMENT (1905-1920)."
SINCE 1975 OR 1976 HE HAS BEEN A PROFESSOR.

THE CHOICE OF YOTOV TO THE MOST IMPORTANT JOURNALISTIC POST
IN BULGARIA, AS WELL AS THE CHOICE OF DYULGEROV A YEAR AGO,
BEAR CLEARLY THE MARKS OF EXPERIMENTS IN THE ATTEMPTS TO FIND
A WORTHY SUCCESSOR FOR GEORGI BOKOV WHO WAS OUSTED FROM ALL

HIS IMPORTANT POSTS AFTER THE 11TH PARTY CONGRESS. ALONG WITH BEING A PROMINENT PARTY FIGURE, BOKOV HAD YEARS-LONG JOURNALISTIC EXPERIENCE, WHICH DYULGEROV AND MOST PROBABLY ALSO YOTOV DO NOT HAVE. THEIR CHOICE, HOWEVER, SEEMS TO INDICATE THAT POLITICAL, PARTY CRITERIA OUTWEIGH PROFESSIONAL REQUIREMENTS AS FAR AS THE POST OF EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF THE PARTY DAILY IS CONCERNED AND THAT AT PRESENT THERE IS NO BULGARIAN JOURNALIST TRUSTWORTHY FOR THIS POST FROM THE PARTY'S POINT OF VIEW.

APART FROM HIS QUALIFICATIONS AS A HISTORIAN, YOTOV OBVIOUSLY MUST HAVE CONSIDERABLE PARTY MERITS TO QUALIFY FOR HIS NEW POST. HE IS, HOWEVER, FAR FROM HOLDING A PARTY RANK SIMILAR TO BOKOV'S, WHO WAS A MEMBER OF THE CC AND A MEMBER OF THE CC SECRETARIAT (HE WAS, HOWEVER, ELECTED TO THESE POSITIONS FOUR AND TEN YEARS, RESPECTIVELY, AFTER BECOMING EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF RABOTNICHESKO DELO IN 1958), OR DYLGEROV'S, WHO WAS A CC MEMBER. IF YOTOV MANAGES TO COPE WITH HIS NEW ASSIGNMENT, HIS FUTURE ELECTION TO THE CC CAN BE CONSIDERED AS CERTAIN. THERE CAN BE NO DOUBT, HOWEVER, THAT HIS NEW POST IS A VERY DIFFICULT AND RESPONSIBLE ONE, NOT LEAST BECAUSE OF THE RECENTLY RATHER CONTRADICTORY POLICY CONCERNING MASS MEDIA AND THE SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS PLACED ON THE PARTY DAILY. END TEXT.

2. CONGEN IS POUCHING COPY TO SOFIA OF RFE BULGARIAN-LANGUAGE INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON YOTOV FROM RFE CARD FILES UNDER REGISTRY NO. 3633328.
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GILMORE

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